

Pearl Harbor (2001)

By Brian Paul Kaess

You probably recall the hit film *Pearl Harbor* (2001), and in that war drama there was a sequence where a Black Navy serviceperson wins some sort of fleet or league championship boxing award by pummeling and defeating a larger, white opponent. Afterwards, the white Navy service person, the loser, is an also-ran for the rest of the film. Something similar like that happened to me in 1985, when I earned a Company-level pushups award in Army Basic training by besting a hispanic soldier who was my chief competitor. When he lost the award by a narrow margin, he must have felt like an also-ran too and put his tail between his legs and headed to L.A.; In the meantime, I got to shake hands with a two-star General. Not for ribbons or medals, but for pride! That was my idea of Officer's Call!

The comparison of the film to real life makes me laugh!

Brian